

The Seller of Men.

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Lopez was his name, and he was a Cuban patriot. To hear him argue that if they had the proper equipments they would drive the Spanish from Cuba within a year was to contribute cash on the spot. He solicited money from men in every walk of life. He received money from women who wept as they gave it. To be one of twelve or fifteen people invited to meet at some residence and hear the story of Lopez was a rare treat in one sense and a sorrowful one in another. He had seen it all, been through it all, and he was a talker to catch your interest in the first dozen words. Months later he knew that he was a monstrous hypocrite and liar, and worse than that, but when the human heart is big with sympathy its owner does not stop to criticize.

From its inception to its close the Cuban rebellion was kept alive by American contributions of cash, arms and volunteers. Uncle Sam knew all about it, but he rolled his tongue in his cheek. During the last two years of the rebellion his vessels were almost openly fitted out to carry arms and other supplies, but if the United States cutters chased them off the coast they did not overhaul them at sea. The government inspectors at the New England arsenals knew where the arms went to, no matter what the marks on the boxes, but they winked at each other and saw nothing.

According to Lopez, 25,000 patriots were ready to rally as soon as supplied with arms. A large sum of money was collected and spent for muskets, revolvers, cartridges and machine guns. Then there were blankets, rations and other things needed by the soldiers. A steamer was chartered and thirty Americans enlisted. Spanish spies in New York reported the purchases to Uncle Sam. He replied that he would attend to the matter and did nothing. The same spies reported the steamer. She was not even looked over by the revenue officers. To be sure she was chased down the coast by a revenue cutter that belched barrels and barrels of black smoke, but when the filibuster was at last overhauled it was to ask if the captain hadn't forgotten his nightshirt on leaving New York.

Lopez was aboard. He had been indefatigable. He had been at Washington. He had directed all while sleeping in a garret and living on one meal a day. A patriot on a pedestal! An object lesson to the world!

The steamer was to touch at a certain point on the coast. Word had gone on ahead and a thousand Cubans would be at hand to swiftly unload her. False alarms would be given and the Spanish gunboats called away from the spot. No precaution had been neglected. Nothing had been left to chance. When once the steamer got headed for the spot she slowed down at half speed. She was to reach the landing under cover of darkness. At 4 o'clock in the afternoon nothing was in sight from her bridge. At 5 o'clock a heavy fog settled down. This was all the better for the success of the expedition. Five hours' slow run would take them to the bay selected, and bonfires and torches would illuminate the discharge of the cargo.

The fog had not lifted at 6 o'clock nor at 7. At 8 one could just make out the form of a man seven or eight feet away. The captain was a prudent man. All lights were extinguished and all noises hushed. With the screw softly turning, the filibuster bored her way into the fog like some blacker shadow. The captain, Lopez and half a dozen others formed a group by themselves and spoke in whispers. All were exultant. They were certain to get in safely.

Of a sudden the thump, thump, thump, of a propeller was heard from straight ahead. It could not be mistaken for any other noise. Then came the same noise off the port bow. Then it came from the starboard quarter. The group listened with beating hearts.

"Porpoises or whales!" whispered Lopez in the captain's ear.

"Spanish gunboats!" was the reply.

By the speaking tube and not by the bell the way of the steamer was checked, and she floated idly on the sea. Three gunboats were converging on her. Three bloodhounds were hunting their game in the fog. They had not heard her, and they could not see her, but it had been planned that she would be in that locality at a certain hour. Lopez and the Spanish had planned it. The gunboats felt their way here and there. They almost rubbed sides with their victim. From the filibuster's deck men could be heard cursing and muttering.

Only one man was watching Lopez—an American volunteer for the Cuban ranks. The struggle of the weak against the strong had appealed to him. He saw the man suddenly draw

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himself up, suck in his breath and open his mouth, and then he leaned forward and clutched the bony throat in fingers of iron.

"He was going to call out to them," he explained as he still maintained his clutch.

Three minutes later a human form was dropped softly into the sea alongside, and the filibuster began working her way out of the trap so treacherously set. She returned to these shores in safety, and men who asked why were never told the facts. It was the Spaniards who boasted that Lopez had been bought for gold. M. QUAD.

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Negro Hanged and Shot was Cut Down and May Recover

Dothan, Ala., Jan. 22.—The negro, Grover Franklin, who last night was taken away from Sheriff Butler and his deputies and hanged to a tree, is again in the hands of the law and stands a chance for recovery. The mob last night was closely fol-

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lowed by the officers and law abiding citizens, determined if possible to avert the lynching, that they did not have time to get their victim outside the corporate limits and hurriedly strung him up to the first tree, and thinking they had riddled him with bullets fled. On arrival of the sheriff the negro was still alive and was immediately cut down and placed in the county jail. It is thought he will recover.

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